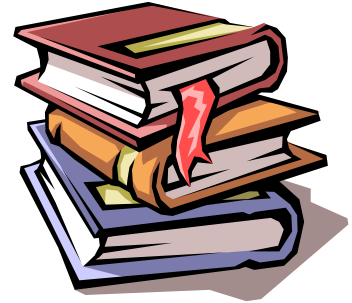


Literacy Tips- Ways to Help Your Child!

All Ages

Read to your child! Keep reading to your child even when she or he is older.

Make books special. Take your children to the library; help them get a library card, give books as gifts and rewards. Have a place for books in your home, either on special shelves, or perhaps even better, put books everywhere!



Kindergarten-First Grade

Read to your child! When you are reading a favorite book, pause and ask your child what is going on in the book. (This one is so important we listed it again!)



Once your child can read a book, have him or her read to you often! Be positive and supportive.

Talk about letters and sounds. Help your child learn the names of the letters and the sounds they make. Turn it into a game. “I’m thinking of a letter and it makes the sounds mmmmmmm.”

Play sound games. Practice blending sounds into words. Ask: “Can you guess what this word is? *m-o-p.*” Hold each sound longer than normal.

Don’t leave home without it! Bring along a book or magazine any time your child has to wait, such as a doctor’s office or at a restaurant. Always try to fit in reading!

Dig deeper into the story. Ask your child questions about the story you’ve just read. Say something like, “Why do you think Clifford did that?”

Be patient. When your child is trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give him or her time to do so. Remind your child to look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.

Gently correct your young reader. When your child makes a mistake, gently point out the letters he or she overlooked or read incorrectly.

Second-Third Grade

Keep reading to your child! Children benefit from being read to, even when they are older. When you are reading a favorite book, pause and ask your child what is going on in the book. (It's so important that we listed it again!)

Have your child read to you. Be supportive and encouraging.



Tell family tales. Children love to hear stories about their family. Talk about a funny thing that happened when you were young.

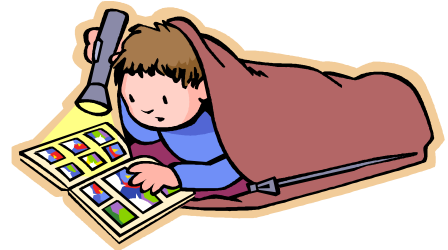
Create a writing toolbox for your home. Fill it with drawing and writing materials like pencils, pens, crayons, stickers, paper, etc. Find ways to have your child use the box such as making a birthday card, a poster, or a shopping list.

Do storytelling on the go. Take turns adding to a story the two of you make up while riding in a car or sitting somewhere together.

Talk to them. Talk about what you see and do together. Talk about everyday activities to build up your child's knowledge. Talk while cooking together, visiting somewhere new or after watching a TV show.

All Ages

Take control of the television and the video games. It is difficult for reading to compete with TV and video games for young children. Limit time on the TV and on video games. Encourage reading as a free-time activity.



Let your children see you reading. Pick up a newspaper, magazine or book and read while they are reading their books. Reading together sends a message that reading is valuable.

Many tips from the USDOE website -- www.ReadingRockets.org